



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

May 5, 2010

DR. IVAN GREENBERG
[REDACTED]

FOIPA Request No.: 1147503- 000
Subject: GHETTO INFORMANT PROGRAM

Dear Dr. Greenberg:

The records that you have requested were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act for another requester.

Enclosed are 14 pages of documents pertaining to your request and a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions. If you want the document reprocessed under current guidelines, please submit a new FOIA request.

Additionally, based on the information, we conducted a search of the Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) index. We were unable to identify responsive records.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be identified easily.

Very truly yours,

David M. Hardy
Section Chief,
Record/Information
Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Freedom of Information / Privacy Acts

Release

Subject: Ghetto Informant Program

The following documents appearing in FBI files have been reviewed under the provisions of The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552); Privacy Act of 1974 (PA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a); and/or Litigation.

 FOIA/PA Litigation Executive Order Applied

Requester: Michael A. Long, now
 Subject: ~~THIS FILE HAS BEEN DETERMINED NOT TO WARRANT REVIEW BY THE~~
 Computer or Case Identification Number: ~~DOCUMENT CLASSIFICATION UNIT. DATE 5-1-03 MRC~~
 Title of Case: ~~b2~~
 * File: ~~997~~ (Compressed File) b7D
 Serials Reviewed:

Release Location: *File _____ Section _____

 FOIA/PA Litigation Executive Order Applied

Requester: _____
 Subject: _____
 Computer or Case Identification Number: _____
 Title of Case: _____ Section _____
 * File: _____
 Serials Reviewed: _____

Release Location: *File _____ Section _____

 FOIA/PA Litigation Executive Order Applied

Requester: _____
 Subject: _____
 Computer or Case Identification Number: _____
 Title of Case: _____ Section _____
 * File: _____
 Serials Reviewed: _____

Release Location: *File _____ Section _____

*Indicate if FBIHQ or Field Office File Number.

(This Form Is To Be Maintained As The Top Serial Of The File, But Not Serialized.)

FBI

Date: 10/5/72

*GMD*Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

b7C

FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO b2
b7DX GHETTO INFORMANT PROGRAM
EXTREMIST MATTERS

BUDED: 10/9/72

ReBuairtel to Albany, 9/28/72.

NW Oct 7 1972

Sacramento has analyzed its ghetto informant program and feels it should be abolished in its entirety. Since this program was initiated, very little in value has been obtained from it. It is also not felt that an alternate program should be developed to replace it, inasmuch as an effective informant program is all that is needed.

If a ghetto informant is able to furnish any pertinent information concerning the Bureau's responsibilities, he or she will be developed as a potential extremist or criminal informant. A few good extremist or criminal informants have proven to be better than many ghetto informants.

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ST-115

10 OCT 7 1972

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- ② - Bureau (RM)
- 1 - Sacramento
- GMS:epg
- (3)

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 5-1-03 BY [Signature]

EXT. INT. SEC

Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
Special Agent in Charge

SC

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Agents, working both criminal and extremist matters, are alert to the importance of developing informants, and in their daily contacts in the ghetto areas are able to keep abreast of any potential for violence. Should they make contact with an individual who appears to have informant potential, a PEI or PCI is opened.

F B I

Date: 10/6/72

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM : SAC, LAS VEGAS
 SUBJECT: GHETTO INFORMANT PROGRAM
 EXTREMIST MATTERS

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Re Bureau airtel, ^{WT} 9/28/72.

100-5747-268

Las Vegas suggests that the Bureau adopt a change in the ghetto informant program which would call for a reduction in the number of these informants, and that quality be stressed instead of quantity. However, it is suggested that the number of cases to be closed be determined according to the needs of each individual office, and that no arbitrary number or percentage of cases to be closed be imposed upon the field. It is felt that the number of cases to be closed should be determined by each field office, noting that some offices, with a large ghetto population and serious extremist matters, would possibly need to reduce their number by smaller percentage than offices with a small ghetto population and with little or minor extremist problems.

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This office feels that by reducing the present number of these informants according to the needs of each individual field office, these sources can then be handled, as we feel they should be, primarily by Special Agents handling extremist matters.

It is felt that if reduced in number and a

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② - Bureau
 1 - Las Vegas
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 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 5-1-03 BY [signature]

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EXT INFORMER

51 NOV 7 1972

Approved: [Signature] Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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concentrated effort made on quality, then the ghetto informant program would be an even better source for future extremist-prob informants. Extremist-prob informants are, of course, developed by Agents whose assignments call for such sources and therefore, it is felt that the ghetto informant program could be better handled by these Agents.

Under the present ghetto informant program, which could continue with a reduction in number and concentration on quality, such an informant serves as a "listening post" and if he furnishes worthwhile extremist information on a continuing basis, he is considered for elevation to an extremist-prob informant. Or, as the case may be, when he furnishes almost exclusively criminal information, consideration could be given to converting to a criminal informant. In any instance, whether an extremist or criminal informant, this source could still serve as a "listening post" and continue to meet this important objective of the ghetto informant program.

If the reduction in number of ghetto informants is approved, any such source assigned to an Agent not handling extremist matters could either be closed, where appropriate, reassigned to an Agent handling extremist matters, or possibly be converted to a criminal informant or source of information.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/5/72

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY P b2
b7D

SUBJECT: GHETTO INFORMANT PROGRAM
EXTREMIST MATTERS

Re Bureau airtel to Albany 9/28/72.

Regarding the proposed change in the Ghetto Informant program, Kansas City is of the opinion a reduction in the number of sources would still result in a sufficient number of quality sources under this program.

The figure of a 50% reduction should be used as a minimum guideline. The maximum guideline would be that those Agents assigned security and extremist matters in Headquarters City should have at least two EGI sources. In those Resident Agencies where a ghetto area exists (for example, those areas set forth on the FD-405(a)), each Agent assigned to the particular RA working primarily criminal and extremist matters should have at least two producing EGIs. Agents not fitting into one of these two areas who have producing EGIs will continue to operate their sources and these would not be reassigned. Other Agents assigned to Headquarters and the RA would not be required to have assigned an EGI. 13

A producing EGI would not necessarily be one who has furnished within the past year criminal type information but merely be an individual who can produce positive information regarding extremist activities in the ghetto area.

This proposed plan would result in probably an excess of 50% of these various cases eventually being closed. This proposed plan, though, should enable an office to maintain a reliable and qualitative intelligence program in the ghetto area. It being noted that each office through their various Potential Extremist Informants, Extremist Informants and

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2 Kansas City
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EXT. INT. SEC.



-- Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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KC [redacted]

Confidential Sources would remain in a positive position to obtain current intelligence information under the guidelines set forth in Bureau airtel to Albany 11/24/71. These latter sources could also be classified as "listening posts."

F B I

Date: 10/6/72

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL
(Priority)*ESM
PJD*

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, PORTLAND (P) b2
 b7D

SUBJECT: ② GHETTO INFORMANT PROGRAM
 EXTREMIST MATTERS
 BUDED 10/9/72

[Redacted] b7C*ND*
ReBuairtel to Albany, 9/28/72.*[Signature]*

The existing ghetto informant program in the Portland Division has experienced moderate success in the early detection and prediction of events in neighborhoods experiencing high crime rates and violent social change. However, the same good results could be obtained by modifying the existing program with a substantial savings in man hours.

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It is proposed that the concept of the ghetto informant program be changed to a program of establishing pre-developed friendly contacts in the Negro community to serve as listening posts, to report information concerning changes or problems in their neighborhood worthy of attention and to be available for contact on specific problems as the need would arise. These people would serve in much the same way as pre-developed sources in the

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Background investigation of these pre-developed contacts would be limited to development of sufficient identifying information to make an effective search of indices, local police agency checks and the records of the FBI Identification Division. These cases would be maintained in a pending inactive status for three or six months and would be reactivated at three- or six-month intervals for a personal contact by an Agent to re-affirm FBI's interest in his

② - Bureau (RM)
 2 - Portland

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Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 465-674

EXT. INFO SEC.

PD [redacted]

community and to determine if the individual is still in a position to be of some possible future service to the FBI.

With regard to the existing ghetto informant program, a review will be made of each case to determine if the person would fit into the proposed pre-developed neighborhood source, be converted to and developed as an Extremist Informant (Probationary), or developed as a PCI, looking toward upgrading to a Criminal Informant. If the individual did not fit into the above three categories, the case would be closed.

The principal thrust of any informant program should, of course, be directed to developing worthwhile Extremist Informants who, on a regular basis, furnish pertinent, timely information regarding black extremist organizational activity and individual black extremists who plan or engage in guerrilla-type activity, crimes of violence, attacks on police, criminal traffic in drugs or any criminal activity to finance themselves and/or their organization; and also toward the development of worthwhile Criminal Informants covering all segments of the community.

The proposed change in the ghetto informant program would eliminate the Ghetto Informant who is not developing, who has no roots or interest in the community and who is being maintained in a pending status by the case Agent because he is required to participate in the program.

This proposed change would result in a savings of Agent time by eliminating the necessity of making and recording monthly contacts with Ghetto Informants and would provide an additional savings in clerical and administrative time. In addition, Agents could devote more time to developing worthwhile informants in the area of extremist and criminal activity.

F B I

Date: 10/5/72

GNY/DW

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI

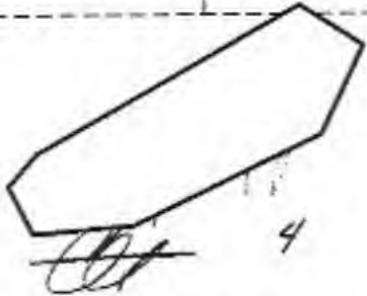
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS [REDACTED]

RE: GHETTO INFORMANT PROGRAM
EXTREMIST MATTERS

ReBuairtel, 9/28/72.

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An analysis of the ghetto informant program of the St. Louis Office has been made in line with the points outlined in referenced airtel. Although the ghetto informant program was instituted primarily to obtain intelligence type information concerning civil disruptions and potential urban guerrilla conditions and although these types of activities appear to have declined during the past year it is suggested that the current ghetto informant program be retained without modification. It is felt that the "listening post" concept of the ghetto informant program still has merit and should be retained. It is also felt that the guidelines set out in Buairtel to Albany dated 11/24/71 captioned "Upgrading Extremist Ghetto Informant Program" contains sound basic principals of developing the type of informants and information that will benefit the Bureau's work. Experience indicates that emphasis on giving ghetto informants specific assignments and seeing that the assignment is carried out has been of major assistance in determining whether the ghetto informant has potential other than as a listening post. It is felt that the ghetto informant program has been beneficial in crime areas other than extremist matters and that it should not be modified by any percentage cut or confined only to Agents working in the extremist field. Information concerning narcotic sources, drug pushers, fences, burglars and the caching of stolen goods has been received from ghetto informants by Agents working the criminal, security and extremist fields which has been of use in combating crime. Careful evaluation of producing informants and the closing of non-producers will keep the program number within bounds.

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2 Bureau (RM)
1 St. Louis

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Approved: *KHS* Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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Date:

10/5/72

ESM/CB

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEWARK
SUBJECT: GHETTO INFORMANT PROGRAM
 EXTREMIST MATTERS
BUDDED: 10/9/72

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Re Bureau airtel to SAC, ALBANY, 9/28/72.

The Newark Office is in complete agreement that modification of the ghetto informant program is necessary in order to insure greater efficiency and maximum utilization of these informants.

A review of ghetto informant files in the Newark Division following the guidelines set out in Bureau airtel dated 11/24/71 captioned "UPGRADING EXTREMIST GHETTO INFORMANT PROGRAM" has revealed the following:

Ghetto informants are divided into two general groups.

The first group are those serving as "listening posts". These informants are generally individuals who own or are employed in such businesses as gas stations, candy stores, barber shops, etc. and are usually in no way directly connected with extremist or criminal matters. These individuals are contacted on a regular basis and routinely report that "all is quiet in the neighborhood". The value of such informants is highly questionable.

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2-Newark
(1-S-3 Desk)
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DATE 5-1-05 BY [Signature]

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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1975-413-138

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MK [redacted]

Civil disturbances are either planned or spontaneous. In the first case, such planning is done by various militant groups. It is the responsibility of all field offices to have developed informants of such character in these groups that they are in a position to furnish advance information about such plans. "Listening post" informants are not in a position to furnish information about preplanned disturbances and they certainly cannot furnish prior information relative to a spontaneous disturbance. Once a disturbance or riot has started, it is virtually impossible to contact these individuals inasmuch as most commercial enterprises are closed down and entry into these areas is not feasible and the ability of these informants to report by telephone is very doubtful.

Targeting of such informants towards obtaining information concerning black extremists, robberies, attacks on police and other violent activities, as well as recent targeting towards obtaining narcotics information has been extremely limited in its value. In view of this, it is felt that the value of the "listening post" is limited and they should be eliminated. The manner in which this action should be taken is set out later in this communication.

The second group consists of those individuals opened as ghetto informants who are considered to have definite value in the extremist field and who are targeted to furnish specific information relative to extremist organizations and individuals. These informants are actually under development towards becoming extremist informants. They are generally individuals who are presently members of extremist organizations or are in some way affiliated with these organizations through contact with members. These ghetto informants are of great value for the continued development of new informants in the extremist field. In the Newark Division it is this group of ghetto informants who have furnished positive information relative to extremist activities, as well as contributing information relative to fugitives, bank robberies and local criminal matters. They are all targeted towards furnishing information relative to narcotics activity and it is anticipated that they will be of great value in this field. These ghetto informants are of definite value and in the Newark Division are all assigned to Agents conducting extremist investigations.

RE [redacted]
The Newark Division disagrees with arbitrarily closing fifty percent of all ghetto informants. The following is Newark's recommendation as to how each ghetto informant should be evaluated:

The Extremist Informant Coordinator or Supervisor, as the case applies, routinely reviews all files under the tickler system. As a file comes up on tickler for review, it should be evaluated. If it appears to be a "listening post" with no value as a future extremist informant, this should be brought to the attention of the case Agent. This Agent should then within one month make a recommendation to either close this informant or convert him to a criminal or security informant for development in a specific area. All ghetto informants considered to be of no other value than as "listening posts" should be closed.

In the Newark Office ghetto informants are assigned to the extremist squad or security squads, the applicant and accounting squads. Those assigned to other than the extremist squad are generally "listening posts" in character. Upon review, as set forth above, if it is determined the informant is of value in the extremist field he should be reassigned to an Agent working extremist matters. If of value in another field of investigation, he should be appropriately reassigned.

It is felt that if the above is adopted, a great deal of Agent time and clerical time would be saved and could be diverted to more productive and efficient usage, particularly by the Agents conducting investigations in the extremist, security and criminal fields. Further, concentration on the remainder of the informants would logically result in their becoming more productive and efficient.

Best Copy Available